

February 3, 2011

## Testimony Regarding

### HB 6249 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF WIND PROJECTS UNTIL THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is James Van Dyke, I am the Vice President for Environmental Sustainability for Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, Massachusetts and I would like to offer the following testimony in opposition to HB 6249.

I would like to share the experience of owning and operating the first mega-watt size wind turbine at a ski resort in North America. Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort is a medium sized year round resort located in the Massachusetts' Berkshire Hills, in the town of Hancock and installed a GE 1.5 MW Wind Turbine Generator in 2007.

The project took three years from concept to commercial generation and the turbine has been in operation for the three and a half years without a single complaint. Our turbine was sited using the manufactures' requirements and common sense. The resort has not seen an exodus of its guests, any complaints of illness or injury, or a drop in property values at the resort or in the community. In fact, our business has grown with Jiminy experiencing three record breaking winter seasons in a row during difficult economic conditions, and part of that success is due to the wind turbine. The wind turbine contributes directly to the Resort's bottom line by generating over 4.5 MW of clean renewable energy each year. Jiminy Peak uses half, which directly off sets electricity that would have been purchased from the utility and the other half is "Net Metered", allowing the resort to take a credit against future electricity purchases.

Having the turbine has given all of us at the Resort as well as the community a sense of pride that we are showing businesses and communities everywhere the value of taking the initiative rather than waiting for some else to provide solutions.

The numbers of guests that visit the Resort have increased. Each year between 15% and 23% of our guests visit Jiminy because of our environmental initiatives including the wind turbine. Each year that percentage translates to 40,000 to 62,000 guest visits. Those guests travel to the Berkshires, stay at our resort or stay at the local Hotels, Motels, or Bed and Breakfasts', eat at the restaurants, shop at the local shops, and buy gas at the convenience stores. Some buy homes in the area. The dollars that the guest spends in the Berkshires stays here and directly and positively benefits the community.

An unexpected benefit of the turbine has been the amount of public interest in it. As a result, Jiminy created a turbine tour program that runs each summer and fall that is open to the public. It allows them to get up close to the turbine and learn about our project and the benefits we have experienced and how they might make a change in their community.

James Van Dyke  
Vice President of Environmental Sustainability  
Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort  
Hancock, MA

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In addition, we have presented this tour to over 15,000 people over the past three years. It has been shown to groups of professionals and business owners in the Ski Industry, Resort and Lodging Associations and many Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs and School groups. The tour's presentation has even gone "on the road" in and presented in New Hampshire, New York, California, and Colorado.

Another company was created directly as a result of the turbine project. EOS Ventures, LLC was setup to provide "one stop shopping" for people and business who want to reduce their energy costs by investing in renewable energy projects. EOS can construct, finance, own and manage renewable energy projects. They can perform as one or all of the following, an Engineer Procurement and Constructor (EPC), an Owners Engineer, a Project Manager, a Financer, and offers long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Our completed projects and projects in development, extend from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic States including solar installations in Connecticut. This company has grown in two and half years to over ten employees and also partners with local and regional suppliers and contractors. EOS Ventures has participated in the development of 21 MW of wind power and over 1.3 MW of solar power, with an additional 4 MW in development, in total representing over an investment of over \$70,000,000.

It has been my experience that when a community is presented with facts, not emotionally charged misinformation, they will "Think Globally and Act Locally" and be proud of what they have accomplished. The Connecticut Siting Council has the regulatory authority, perspective, and broad experience amongst its members to understand the complex issues of a Wind Turbine Generator project. Adding additional regulatory requirements and additional levels of review will only further delay wind renewable energy projects in the State. The Siting Council has already demonstrated that "Reasonable People Making Reasonable Decisions" has been very successful.

Please do not handcuff the Siting Council or the residents in every community who would welcome renewable energy.

Please do not support this bill for a moratorium of siting wind turbines.